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Meeting of the Parties to the
Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms
(Second meeting, Geneva, 1-3 October 2003)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE MEETING

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland,
starting at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 1 October 2003

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Exchange of information on national experiences and needs.
3. Legally binding options for further developing the application of the Convention to genetically modified organisms.
4. Any other business.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The second meeting of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) will take place on 1-3 October 2003. The main task of the Working Group is to explore options for a legally binding approach to further developing the application of the Convention to GMOs, including through possible instruments, to select the most appropriate options and to develop these for consideration and possible decision or adoption by the Parties at their second meeting (decision I/4 of the Meeting of the Parties). The Working Group is expected to continue its work on this task, taking into account the experience acquired with the application of public participation procedures to activities with GMOs and the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with respect to GMOs, and the needs that have been identified.

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Working Group is invited to adopt the agenda as set out in the present document.

Item 2 Exchange of information on national experiences and needs

According to paragraph 34 of the Guidelines, the Parties should monitor and keep under review the implementation of the Guidelines and report on their usefulness and the progress made in implementation to the Meeting of the Parties. The Working Group agreed at its first meeting that, in the first instance, a written commenting procedure, whereby countries would report inter alia on any experience acquired with the implementation of the Guidelines, would be the most effective way to contribute to the process. To that end, the Working Group agreed that delegations should submit in writing accounts of their national experiences with the application of public participation procedures to activities with GMOs and with the Guidelines. In addition, delegations were invited to identify their specific needs with respect to this process (MP.PP/AC.2/2003/2, para. 27). The Working Group is expected to use this input as a basis for discussion.

Item 3 Legally binding options for further developing the application of the Convention to GMOs

At its first meeting, the Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare an analysis of the implications, including advantages and disadvantages, of possible legally binding options for developing the application of the Convention to GMOs (MP.PP/AC.2/2003/2, para. 28). The analysis should build upon the existing legal analysis of the application of the Convention to GMOs (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2001/4) and should analyse all the options which were discussed in the first meeting of the Working Group as well as additional options proposed by delegations.

The Working Group is expected to use this analysis as a basis for continuing its work in considering and selecting the most appropriate option(s) for a legally binding approach to further developing the application of the Convention to GMOs. The Working Group is also expected to consider how to further develop these options and to start preparatory work to this end.

Item 4 Any other business

Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.